Nippon Times

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RED ARMY INTENSIFYING DRIVE ON BERLIN HOURLY

Americans Also Establish First Major Springboard for Final Plunge Against Reich Capital

Domei

BERLIN, April 17.—The German military spokesman today declared that the Red Army offensive against Berlin from the Oder bend is "intensified hourly" as the entire Eastern Front from the Pomeranian Bay down to the western Baskides was set ablaze by the end of the second day of the major offensive.

The Soviet offensive, which was opened yesterday morning, by the end of the day expanded to other front sectors. At Lausitzer Neisse the Soviets launched their major attack in the area of Rothenburg and between Muskau and Forst after intense artillery preparation. German tank units in counterattacks smashed the advanced Soviet spearheads and sealed off some penetration points.

The big Red Army push despite its tremendous employment of men and material thus far has not only prevented a breakthrough but was stopped for gains not exceeding six to eight kilometers at most. The attacks were halted and partly sealed off in immediate German counterattacks.

West of Kuestrin the Soviets succeeded in gaining a temporary foothold on the Seelow height, 45 kilometers from Berlin, at two points, but were thrown back in counterattacks. The main fighting centers on the Oder bend are west of Kuestrin, south of Frankfurt, and around Wriesen, 46 kilometers northeast of Berlin.

The military spokesman disclosed some figures of the Red Army offensive, which showed the big defensive success of the German troops. In the two-hour artillery barrage which preceded the attack yesterday morning the Soviet guns fired more than 2,450,000 rounds of shells. They also employed 450 tanks of which 211 were destroyed or nearly half of the original force. Over 132 Soviet planes were shot down, also.

Southeast and southwest of Ratibor in upper Silesia, Marshal Konev made renewed attempts to force a breakthrough, but they were frustrated by stubborn German defense measures.

The second day of the major Soviet offensive on the Oder front reveals increasingly that the German command has made all possible preparations to meet the mass onslaught on the front immediately outside of Berlin and it is learned that the Germans have built on the front between Stettin and Gorlitz powerful defense positions and have concentrated the acme of the German reserves in that fighting sector.

Establish Major Springboard

Domei

BERLIN, April 17.—In the face of stiffening German opposition, the enemy forces exerted greatest pressure eastward to overpower the Elbe and establish their first major springboard for the final plunge against Berlin from east of the Elbe loop at Magdeburg.

At the confluence of the Saale and Elbe, Simpson's American 9th Army troops are continuing deployment operations for a new major attack and yesterday a swaying battle developed at the bridgehead east of Barby below Magdeburg. The Americans were stopped and compressed in the narrow area at Zerbst.

Simultaneously the left wing of the American 1st Army pressed toward Dessau also to force a crossing of the Elbe at this point. Operations of the two armies indicated, hence, that the Americans are preparing for the attack on Berlin between the mouths of the Saale and Mulde and east of the Elbe. Prerequisite for this major action is the release of strong forces still lagging behind and tied down in numerous German pockets of resistance especially at Leipzig.

The Americans yesterday launched a fresh thrust against Leipzig and heavy fighting is still raging in the forefield of the city. Violent street fighting raged in Halle.

Further south a new drive by powerful forces began to develop from out of the Chemnitz area toward the Elbe which indicated that General Eisenhower has not given up the plan to effect a junction with the Soviet forces in the Czechoslovak-German frontier area.

In the northern front the enemy's direct pressure against Bremen increased and again the gravity center of the British 2nd Army attacks is borne by its right wing which after penetrating through Luneburger Heide is closing in on the Hamburg area.

In Holland enemy forces expanded their penetration area near Arnhem toward the northwest and fierce fighting continued in the streets of Groningen.

The German situation is precarious in the Ruhr pocket. The German divisions there are split in two groups and are greatly compressed, but are fighting stubbornly for every meter of ground. An enemy offer to capitulate Dussedorf was refused.

Soviet News Agency Insists Warsaw Poles Be Represented in S.F.

Domei

LISBON, April 17.—A statement by the Tass, official Soviet news agency, reiterated today the Soviet insistence that the Soviet-supported Polish Provisional Government of National Unity at Warsaw should have representation at the United Nation's Conference on International Organization at San Francisco this month, according to a Moscow dispatch. The present commission working on the reorganization of the Polish Provisional Government, it added, has come forward with no new developments and said that hence the Soviet demand was amply realistic.

HITLER EXHORTS ARMY TO CRUSH SOVIET FORCES

Orders All Patriots to Kill Traitors in Proclamation to German Soldiers

Domei

BERLIN, April 16.—Fuehrer Adolf Hitler issued a proclamation to all the German forces on the Eastern Front today urging them to resist the offensive being launched by the Red Army.

"Germany's greatest enemy, the powerful Soviets, have now commenced their final offensive," said the proclamation. "The enemy is planning to break up Germany and to crush the German people. All the German officers and men on the Eastern Front should know from experience what kind of fate awaits all the German women, girls, and children. The aged and children will be killed or harmed. The women will be subjected to a pitiful state, while others may be transported to Siberia. Germany has resorted to every measure since January to establish a powerful battle line.

"With great fresh reinforcements, the powerful German artillery and infantry forces are striking at the enemy. The front is being steadily strengthened by shock troops and national shock forces. We must bleed the enemy at the very gates of the German capital. We shall bleed them with all our might.

"In the face of this most critical and grave situation, I declare any regiments or divisions who give up their positions to be mere trash. Such troops are put to shame before the eyes of the women and children of the German cities who are standing up under terror raids. I warn you. Beware of the few, who in order to save their lives, have sold their country. Immediately arrest any who issue orders to retreat. In case of need, ignore rank or standing, and shoot traitors on the spot. If the German armed forces fulfil their duty for the coming few days or weeks, the last offensive from the east will be crushed, as a result of which the enemy attack from the west will be done away with.

"In such case Berlin will remain in German hands and Vienna will again fall into German hands, and Europe will never fall into Soviet hands. Unite and strike out for the defense of your wives and sisters, your children, for our soil, and for our entire future.

"The eyes of all the German people are concentrated on you men. The German people expect you to reduce Bolshevism in a sea of blood with your superior weapons and indomitable spirit. As soon as you do away with those fearful group of war criminals whose like has never been seen in history, we shall see the turning point in this war."

BRITISH RAID LOSSES BARED

144,542 Casualties Suffered in Reich Air Attacks

Domei

LISBON, April 16.—A total of 144,542 casualties were caused among British civilians by German air attacks on the British homeland from the outbreak of the war up to February 28, the British authorities announced, according to a London report today. Of the number those killed and missing totaled 59,793 while the hospitalized wounded numbered 84,749. Merchant crewmen casualties totaled 34,161, it was also announced at the same time that of this number, the killed and missing numbered 30,179 and those interned 3,982.

TRUMAN REVEALS DESIRE TO MEET ANTI-AXIS HEADS

Not Taking Initiative, However, President Says at His News Conference

Domei

LISBON, April 17.—President Harry Truman held his first news conference this morning and he declared that he will be very happy to meet the heads of the other big anti-Axis Powers as soon as possible, according to a Washington dispatch.

Truman said that he has not started any move toward organizing a new meeting of the anti-Axis leaders, but he said—in answer to a question—that he would be very happy to meet Prime Minister Churchill, Premier Stalin and Chiang Kai-shek soon. The President added that he would be glad also to see the French President, General Charles de Gaulle, if he cares to arrange a conference.

On matters of foreign policy, Truman had several statements for the newsmen. He said he is backing to the hilt the American delegation to the conference at San Francisco. Also, that he does not expect to attend the conference, but he will deliver a radio address of welcome. He added he expects to see Vyacheslav Molotov, Soviet Foreign Commissar, before he goes to San Francisco.

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 15.—While the late Franklin D. Roosevelt characterized his policy as "a little left of the center," most political observers anticipate that President Harry S. Truman will be "a little right of the center" in domestic policies, although he is expected to continue the war policy set by his predecessor, according to a New York dispatch.

It is expected in most political circles, however, that changes in the presidential cabinet and entourage will be gradual. There is some speculation that among the first to resign might be Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury; Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor; and Claude K. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture. There is doubt also whether Henry A. Wallace who lost the vice-presential nomination to Truman last November will wish to continue as Secretary of Commerce. Observers consider that probably Edward J. Stettinius will remain as Secretary of State, at least until after the San Francisco Conference.

N.Y. Times Comments

After the initial shock over President Roosevelt's death, significant developments which have been taking place during the last two days suggest the complex duties the new President will have to carry on in the face of a great crisis especially in the foreign field and also a likely modification of Roosevelt's New Deal, the New York Times said editorially today.

Concerning the thorny problems of "liberated Europe," the Times reported that another big-three meeting may be necessary within a few months in which Truman will have to take up Roosevelt's place in dealing with Marshal Stalin and Prime Minister Churchill, but without Roosevelt's experience and skill. In this connection it is reported that Truman will retain Roosevelt's confidant Harry Hopkin's service since Hopkins has intimate knowledge of the past dealings among Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt.

The Times aso predicted that Roosevelt's New Dealism, meanwhile, might undergo changes under Truman who reportedly will follow the middle of the road course in domestic policies. This belief is strengthened by Truman's appointment of former War Mobilizer Byrnes as a "civilian adviser."

Eden Meets Truman

Domei

LISBON, April 16.—Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, saw President Truman this morning before the new President delivered his speech at a joint session of the Congress, according to a Washington dispatch. Eden was accompanied by Edward Stettinius, Secretary of State, who earlier had a half-hour conference with his new chief.

Yamaji Reaches Harbin

Domei

HARBIN, April 17.—Minister Akira Yamaji and his party arrived here yesterday at 3:30 p.m. en route home after evacuating Bulgaria and are staying at the Yamato Hotel. They are expected to return to Japan by way of Hsinking tomorrow.

Atmosphere of Berlin Tense as Capital Hemmed in Between East and West Fronts

By YOSHIO MORIYAMA
By Arrangement with the Asahi

BERLIN, April 15.—It is well-nigh impossible now to send war news as a special newspaper correspondent from Berlin. Like an incoming tidal storm the fighting lines are forever moving and the war situation does not stay the same for even half an hour.

Within 24 hours since the announcement made on April 12 that American tank units had reached the Elbe river for the first time at south Magdeburg, the 2nd and 3rd enemy units had also reached the Elbe at two points, namely Wittenberg and Tangermuende with strong infantry forces following.

Magdeburg, which had been pierced day before yesterday, was besieged from the north and south today, with its occupation imminently expected. Powerful enemy forces loomed before Leipzig too, threatening this industrial city in central Germany.

The Elbe river flows 80 kilometers west of Berlin. The American army is now overwhelmingly pressing down in an area extending 150 kilometers opposite the river with the final push aimed at the Reich capital. Already part of the enemy force has crossed the Elbe and is pressing hard toward Berlin. However, German resistance retains its same stiff level.

On April 13, two steel bridges spanning the Elbe were blown away. Blastings are still to be heard today and over beyond the river, many of the German forces are still fighting. With Berlin in the direct line of menace, the last and final measures are being taken.

From April 12 to the following day, the atmosphere in Berlin underwent a revolutionary change. Hemmed in between the east and west fronts with the former 80 kilometers distant and the latter a bare 60 kilometers away, the heavy enemy pressure is momentarily strongly felt. City traffic is being strictly regulated and no passengers are allowed on the elevated, underground or tram lines without certificates testifying to their work in vital wartime jobs.

These special certificates are either red or yellow, with the latter to become invalid should Berlin itself become a battleground. Nor are these certificates easily obtainable. The majority of the people, laden down with heavy burdens, trudge from one end of the town to the other. The expression on every face is tenseness and seriousness personified.

In the city and outside the city limits, even army trucks are stopped, with the drivers asked to show their identification cards. This is because they can't tell who or what sort of people may have insinuated into the locality.

Today, at the press conference everybody again refrained from asking questions. Everyday, correspondents attend the conference with some hopes to hear better news, but always in vain. Sad news daily flows in from all fronts in the northern, central and southern sectors. What has become of the German forces isolated in the Ruhr area? How about the defense maintained around the Elbe river? Has any progress been effected in the German massive counteroffensive operation? The correspondents have all eyes, sorts of questions they would like to ask, but knowing fully well the predicament confronting Germany, they remain quiet.

Enemy Air Raids Increase

The war situation has entered a serious stage, and the enemy's tactics in conducting aerial attacks have changed. Previously, air alert was sounded as soon as enemy aircraft appeared over Hanover. As there were some 20 minutes between the sounding of air alert and the appearance of enemy aircraft, Berliners had sufficient time to change clothes and hurry to nearby air raid shelters. Today, Hanover being in enemy hands, the interval between the sounding of alert and the actual appearance of enemy aircraft has come to be only five minutes or so. Berliners, therefore, must be dressed even going to bed at night.

The enemy air attacks have greatly increased in number because the enemy aircraft today hop off from bases located in occupied territories whereas they previously flew from England all the way to Berlin. It is not seldom that enemy planes appear over the city three times during one night. Thus constantly threatened, the people are apt to become desperate.

Berlin will presently become a battlefield. All preparations have been completed, the press and radio facilities cooperating in announcing stern instructions. Heinrich Himmler, Home Minister and concurrently Commander-in-Chief of the S.S., made the following severe declaration: "We must defend every city and every village. We must defend the country at the cost of our lives. There is not a single open town or village in whole Germany. Those who neglect defense or instigate sabotage will be immediately sentenced to death whether they be military men or civilians."

At the same time, the Reich High Command issued orders to defense commanders stationed in every city or town to put up resistance to the last and die in action. Such strict orders were evidently issued in view of the fact that General Lasch at the last moment betrayed his comrades after having resisted the Soviet offensive for a long time though heavily encircled by the enemy at Koenigsberg. The betrayal must have greatly shocked the Reich military leaders.

On the other hand, Breslau is still holding out after two and a half months of resistance. Berlin is ready to wage the ultimate battle for the honor and prestige of the capital under the leadership of Dr. Joseph Goebbels, Propaganda and National Enlightenment Minister.

Spring is in Berlin now. In one of the air raid shelters, a baby was crying, and its mother, obviously a native of some Balkan country, was humoring the baby saying, "Don't cry, my little one. War will be over soon." Berlin is today confronting a great storm. Thinking of the Berlin which was beautifully decked with flowers ready to welcome Fuehrer Adolf Hitler who was triumphantly coming back from his glorious expedition to France five years ago, the correspondent could not stop tears welling out in his

POLISH LEADERS CLASH

Mikolajczyk and Arciszewski Talk On Relations With Soviet

Domei

STOCKHOLM, April 16.—The differences between Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, former Premier of the Polish Government in exile in London, and Tomasz Arciszewski, Premier of the same regime, over the formation of the Polish National Unity Government at Warsaw have been brought to light, according to a London dispatch.

Revealing his view with regard to the formation of the Polish National Unity Government, Mikolajczyk made the following statement yesterday:

"In view of the fact that the basis of the Polish policy is closely related with Poland's friendly relations with the Soviet Union, I am ready to extend all-out support to the formation of the Polish Government at Warsaw in accordance with the decisions reached at the Crimea Conference."

Meanwhile, Arciszewski stressed the importance of establishing the Polish National Unity Government in consideration of Poland's friendly relations with all the anti-Axis countries, and violently attacked Mikolajczyk saying, "The unconditional recognition of the Crimea agreement will undoubtedly place Soviet political manipulators in a more favorable position and as a result, important Polish persons representing various political parties would become voluntarily 'missing'. Such policy will eventually make it extremely difficult for Poland to protect its real interest."

BRITISH WAR HEAD QUIZZED

Grigg Unable to Say When Demobilization Will Begin

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 17.—Sir James Grigg, British War Minister, told the House of Commons today that he was unable to answer when and how many groups of the British forces will be demobilized, according to a London dispatch.

Mr. Lipson, Independent, asked the War Minister the following question: "How soon after the end of the European War will the armed forces begin demobilization and how many groups will be affected in the first stage. The War Minister replied, "I regard the position as still too uncertain for a firm answer to be made."

Grigg also stated that 12 war correspondents had been killed in action, four accidentally killed, six wounded and six taken prisoners.

Strategical Air Attack Ends

Domei

LISBON, April 16.—General Carl Spaatz, Commander of the American Strategical Air Force in Europe, stated in a communique today that the aerial warfare hitherto conducted by the strategical air force has ended on account of the progress made by the ground forces, according to a Paris dispatch.

FIVE ARMY WILD EAGLES WIN POSTHUMOUS HONORS

4 Heroes Rammed B-29's Over Japan; 1 Flier Attacked U.S. Fleet in Leyte Gulf

Lieutenants Minoru Shirota and Toshiro Wakui have been posthumously promoted by two grades to the rank of major, while Sergeant Major Makoto Suzuki was promoted by two grades to the rank of sub-lieutenant, the War Ministry announced on Wednesday.

On the same day, the Bureau of Decorations and the War Ministry announced that four Army Wild Eagles, including Majors Shirota and Wakui, who previously were granted citations, have been awarded various orders of the Golden Kite and the Rising Sun. The announcement follows:

"Majors Minoru Shirota and Toshiro Wakui have been awarded the Fourth Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Sixth Class Order of the Single-Rayed Rising Sun.

"Special Sergeant Majors Yoshinari Noguchi and Hideo Takahashi have been awarded the Fifth Class Order of the Golden Kite and the Seventh Class Order of the Rising Sun with Blue Paulowina Leaves."

Majors Shirota and Wakui were the heroes who downed two B-29 bombers by ramming actions on January 3 of this year when the Mariana-based enemy planes raided Nagoya. They were cited for their great feats on February 8.

Subl'eutenant Makoto Suzuki who was honored by a two-grade promotion, rammed and downed one B-29 on January 26 in a counterattacking operation against a large formation of Mariana-based U.S. planes that attacked the capital.

Special Sergeant Major Noguchi dashed into the enemy fleet in Leyte Gulf on October 27 last year and launched a ramming attack, thereby meeting glorious death. He was granted a citation on January 12 this year.

Special Sergeant Major Takahashi was one of the Wild Eagles who downed a B-29 in a ramming attack on December 12 last year in an engagement with the U.S. planes which bombed Nagoya. He was granted a citation under date of February 7 this year.

INSTRUCTIONS TO WORKERS

Police Urge Those in Raid-Stricken Areas Not to Evacuate

With the aim of stopping factory owners and workers from deserting air raid stricken areas, the Metropolitan Police Board issued the following urgent instructions on Sunday:

Factory owners and others who hold responsible positions in munitions factories are requested to repair or replace wrecked installations and contrive proper measures for the relief of employes in cooperation with the nearest police station, the national labor mobilization station or the Labor Section of the Metropolitan Police Board so as to resume productive activities as soon as possible.

Factory workers who have been rendered homeless due to enemy air raids are requested not to evacuate the district to suit their own convenience but to consult with the factory owners or those who are in responsible positions. In case no connection can be made with the factory owners, they should ask for instructions at the consultation office for factory workers suffering from enemy air raids which are located in all police stations and city or town offices.

Members of the Association for National Service Through Labor are advised to utilize the dwellings for laborers at three places, namely, the Tokyo Labor Training Institute, the Shibaura Institute of the Association for National Service through Labor and the dormitory for Shock Attack Corps attached to the same Association.

EVACUEES TO GET LOANS

Agricultural and Foresty Bank to Aid Raid Sufferers

In view of the increasing number of air-raid sufferers, ordinary evacuees and those evacuated from dangerous zones by the Government, the Central Agricultural and Forestry Bank has decided to make loans to be invested in various enterprises for the stabilization of the livelihood of such people and thus to bolster their fighting morale.

These loans will be made by the Agricultural Society in various towns and villages whenever funds are needed to restore the life of the evacuees to normalcy. Loans will be made either through the Agricultural Society in towns and villages or directly to the evacuees.

Notice of Severance Is Not Yet Received From Spanish Envoy

No formal notification has been made to the Japanese Government by the Spanish Minister to Japan, Santiago Mendez de Vigo, who is now in Karuizawa, regarding the Spanish Government's severance of diplomatic relations with the Japanese Government as announced by the Spanish Government last week, Sadao Iguchi, Spokesman of the Board of Information, declared at his foreign press conference on Wednesday. Mr. Iguchi said that in the absence of such communication no negotiations were going on yet for a new Protecting Power for Japan in enemy countries. Regarding the Awa Maru case, Mr. Iguchi said that the measures to be taken were now under consideration by the authorities concerned.

ENEMY ON BURMA FRONT IS ATTACKING YAMETHIN

Drives Wedge Into Southern Area of City; Irrawaddy Battle Intensifies

By a Member of the Military Press Corps

ADVANCE BASE ON BURMA FRONT, April 18.—Powerful enemy forces which had been advancing southward along the old Burma route from the direction of Meiktila since the beginning of April, attacked Yamethin on April 10. The enemy forces under cover of planes and supported by powerful mechanized units penetrated the southern sector of Yamethin on April 12. As a result, fierce fighting has developed in that area.

Encountering the enemy troops backed by more than 100 tanks, the Japanese on the spot are now pouring a shower of shells on the enemy, taking advantage of favorable topographical conditions. The enemy is sustaining heavy blows.

The Japanese Forces, on the night of April 12, were grimly defending one corner of Yamethin and the battle there is increasing in intensity and grimness hour by hour. The enemy in Meiktila and at a point 30 kilometers north of Thazi has been frantically attempting to advance toward Kalow and the mountainous region in the east, but his advance has been checked.

Meanwhile, the enemy offensive in the Irrawaddy River area has become intensified. With some 30 tanks and 20 guns in the lead, the enemy launched frontal attack against the Japanese position in the mountains east of Seikpyu on April 11. The main force of the Japanese Units on the spot has been halting the enemy infiltration in furious counterattacks. The enemy's East African 81st Division which had attempted to penetrate Aeng from Tamadaw on the southwestern coast has suffered immense losses in Japanese attacks.

RITES FOR YIOJIMA HEROES

Memorial services for the officers and men who fell in action either on Yiojima or in various places in Tokyo and for those who were killed by enemy air raids in Tokyo were solemnly observed at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, at the Tsukiji Honganji Temple under the sponsorship of Tokyo Metropolis. Present were proxies of the Imperial Household Department, and of the War, Navy, Education, Welfare and other Ministries, Kingo Machimura, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Board, Ceneral Toshizo Nishio, Governor of Tokyo Metropolis, 319 members of bereaved families and many other government officials and civilians.

On the occasion, General Nishio read the memorial message, following which the bereaved families and the others attending the rites offered incense.

Planning Bureau Chief Picked

Lieutenant General Tsukizo Akinaga was appointed Director of the Cabinet Planning Bureau on Monday. Lieutenant General Akinaga, who was formerly a central personage of the Planning Board, takes his post while in active army service. With the appointment of Lieutenant General Akinaga to the post, Naokai Murase, Director of the Legislative Bureau who had been concurrently assuming the Cabinet Planning Bureau directorship, was relieved of the latter post on the same day.

Thein Maung, Togo Confer

Burmese Ambassador Thein Maung called on Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo at 2 p.m. on Tuesday and conferred with him on important business.

5 ENEMY CARRIERS, 1 BATTLESHIP SUNK IN OKINAWA BATTLE

7 Other Warcraft Blasted and 1 Damaged by Nippon Planes, I.H.Q. Reveals

IMPERIAL HEADQUARTERS' COMMUNIQUE
4:30 p.m. April 18

"Without respite, our Air Forces in cooperation with the valiant fighting of the Garrison Forces on the main Okinawa Island are now vigorously attacking the enemy task forces and war vessels around the said Island.

"Of the battle results obtained by our side on April 16 and 17, those that have become known up to the present follow:

SUNK:
- 5 Aircraft Carriers (of which three were regular plane carriers)
- 1 Battleship
- 2 Battleships or Cruisers
- 1 Cruiser
- 4 Transports

DAMAGED:
- 1 Battleship."

379 U.S. Warcraft Hit

A total of 379 U.S. warcraft have been sunk or damaged by Imperial Japanese Air and Sea Forces in the area around the main Okinawa Island from March 23 up to April 16. Detailed figures follow:

(The battle results announced by the Imperial Headquarters on April 18 are not included)

(1)...Sunk
(2)...Sunk or Damaged
(3)...Damaged
(4)...Total

	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Aircraft carriers	4	2	6	12
Converted carriers	3	0	1	4
Battleships	9	1	7	17
Large warships	7	5	12	24
Battleships or cruisers	1	1	12	14
Battleship or transport	1	0	0	1
Cruisers	38	0	16	54
Cruisers or destroyers	6	0	2	8
Cruiser or transport	1	0	1	2
Destroyers	31	0	22	53
Transports	19	0	28	47
Landing transports	16	0	0	16
Warships of unidentified category	63	0	55	118
Minesweepers	4	0	2	6
Plane carrier or oil tanker	0	0	1	1
Torpedo boats	0	0	2	2
Grand total	203	9	167	379

Enemy Attacks Frustrated

With the intensification of the operations of the Japanese air units against the enemy surface units around the main Okinawa Island, the Imperial Land Forces are showing their true strength in powerful counterattacks. In the southern part of the island, the enemy forces are trying to break through the Japanese positions around Shuri and appear to be continuing their preparations for offensive operations. Taking every chance offered, the Imperial Forces are launching night attacks and engaging in counterattacks.

On the morning of April 16, the enemy forces contacted their rearline forces, in view of their heavy losses on the foremost front. Between April 12 and 15, 1,700 enemy troops were killed or wounded, as announced by the Imperial Headquarters on April 16. Since then, it has been revealed that a further 240 enemy troops had been put out of action during the same period. In the Motobu Peninsula area, in the western part of the main Okinawa Island, the enemy launched fierce attacks against our shelling and bombing, but were repulsed after six hours of fierce fighting.

At about 11 a.m., April 15, enemy forces landed on Mizuna Island, just off the Motobe Peninsula. Strict watch is being kept on the increasing enemy activity against Iye Island, six kilometers west of Motobu Peninsula.

Togo Entertains Envoys

The first reception after his assumption of office was given by Foreign Minister Shigenori Togo to German Ambassador H. G. Stahmer, Burmese Ambassador Thein Maung, Thai Ambassador Wichit Wichit-Wathakan and Philippine Ambassador Jorge B. Vargas at the official residence of the Foreign Minister at 3 p.m. on Wednesday. Other diplomatic representatives will be given a reception as soon as they return to Tokyo from the country.

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TOKYO, THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1945

'Who Is Harry Truman?'

"Say, just who is Harry Truman?" an American soldier on the front line at Okinawa is reported to have asked when informed that Vice-President Truman had succeeded to the presidency on the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt. That American soldier is not alone in asking this question. The whole world, including the people in the highest political quarters in the United States, is asking this question, for so relatively obscure and unknown a man is the new President of the United States that no one knows just what he will or can do in the tremendously important post which has suddenly become his by accident.

"Who is Harry Truman?" the world may well continue to ask even after the new President made his formal speech before a joint session of both Houses of Congress last Monday, for so colorless and uninforming was that speech that it still remains a mystery as to what is the real stature of the man who has succeeded to the mantle of the well-advertized Roosevelt. It is obvious from the mediocre quality of President Truman's maiden presidential address that he falls far below his eloquent predecessor in the gift of self-expression. It is theoretically possible, of course, that despite his feeble effort at speech-making he may turn out to possess an unexpected talent for leadership. But from all outward indications so far, it is highly unlikely. He still remains a man of mystery with respect to his ideas and with respect to his abilities.

It cannot be denied that President Truman's speech, despite its commendable earnestness, was disappointingly devoid of any original ideas or any indication of distinctive character. He said just the most commonplace things which would have to be said in any case by any person in his position, and nothing more. All the laudatory comments which his listeners are heaping upon him are nothing more than the labored efforts of patriotic Americans naturally anxious to present their new leader in as favorable a light as possible. As a matter of policy, all the brilliant scintillations of America's high-powered propaganda machine can be expected to be directed into manufacturing a glamorized and impressive picture of the new President, but it must be admitted that the raw material appears pretty unpromising if his maiden speech is any indication.

What he stated in his speech boils down simply to the following points: He will attempt to carry on the policies of Roosevelt without change. The United States will continue to insist upon the unconditional surrender of Japan and Germany. The so-called war criminals will have to be punished. There will be no relaxation in the effort to improve the lot of the common man. The work of creating an international organization must be continued. The United States must make every effort to retain her position as one of the most powerful forces in the world.

These are platitudinous generalities which anyone can utter. In fact, in view of the past commitments of the United States and in the circumstances of the world military and political situation which confront the United States, these represent the absolute minimum that any responsible American statesman could state. Nothing is revealed by repeating these platitudes. The question is: How, in what manner and by what means, are these intentions to be carried out? What is the specific program? In this all-important regard, President Truman said nothing. Of course, it may be asking for too much to expect a detailed statement of policy on so short a notice. But at least some hint of the trend of his personal views might have been given by President Truman. His statements, however, were as vague and impersonal and uninforming as they could possibly be.

Is it to be concluded, then, that the new President of the United States has no distinctive ideas, no opinions, no plans, of his own? It is not unlikely. The past record of the man shows that he has never been a leading figure in either national or international politics. A once bankrupt haberdasher who became an innocently blind and incongruously honest puppet in "Boss" Tom Pendergast's notoriously corrupt Kansas City political machine, he rendered faithful service in the modest office of county judge until he was rewarded by being sent to the Senate. There he appeared as a quiet, grey little man, conscientious and hard-working but with no special attributes. His only claim to national fame arose only relatively recently, when as the head of a Senate Investigation Committee he saved the Government more than a billion dollars by uncovering waste and corruption in the financing of America's war production program. The grateful nation for the first time came to recognize him as a sort of a minor national hero, but his achievements were based more on colorless dogged perseverance rather than on any special ability and his work entailed a single-minded concentration on small details rather than broad creative statesmanship.

His selection as vice-presidential candidate in the last election was not the result of any expression of choice on the part of the people. It was an arbitrary choice made by a handful of political bosses sitting in secret conclave, as important matters are usually decided in America under the peculiar system which prevails there masquerading behind the false facade of democracy. Former Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, long Roosevelt's understudy and heir apparent, despite his popularity among the masses had created too many enemies in high political quarters by his undoubted brilliant ability and positive ideas. The political bosses wanted a more compliant puppet. The men they most preferred were too unpalatable to the public. Truman appeared as a useful compromise candidate. He would be harmless and obedient, and his recent flash of fame would make him a valuable vote-catcher. And hence through unimaginable squiludgery Truman's nomination as vice-presidential candidate was railroaded through the Democratic National Convention by the political manipulators over Truman's own tearful protestations that he was not capable enough to fulfil the responsibilities of the post. Such is the man who has been unexpectedly lifted by Roosevelt's death into the presidency.

It is no wonder that he does not seem to have a definite personal policy. He may yet surprise everyone by revealing a hidden talent for leadership. But in all probability he will not. Whichever way the strongest political faction in America chooses he should turn, that is the way he will probably go. To be sure, there will be no relaxation of America's conduct of the war. That is to be expected from the mad lust for power which today dominates the whole American nation. There will be no deviation from America's goal of world hegemony. The basic economic and psychological urges of American life dictate such a course. Even Roosevelt was a puppet of these forces rather than an independent shaper of America's destiny. But within limits Roosevelt influenced the details of America's conduct by his own forceful personality. It remains to be seen whether President Truman is capable of doing likewise.

After Roosevelt's egoistic demagoguery, Truman's modest, honest, and serious attitude is at least an improvement in moral tone. But as to what the effect will be in actual accomplishments, the question still remains unanswered despite Truman's speech before Congress. Truman still has not revealed himself. The world must still continue to ask, "Who is Harry Truman?"

PRESS COMMENTS

Wednesday, April 18

GRASP TRUE CHARACTER OF AMERICANS

MAINICHI—It has been ascertained that the Awa Maru on the night of April 1 was sunk by an American submarine. In utter disregard of his pledge, the enemy illegally and outrageously sank the vessel after it had finished the transportation of relief supplies as requested by the enemy. There are words to describe this outrage. The act itself serves as an illustration of the true character of the enemy.

As our Government authorities point out, the enemy has often conducted attacks on our hospital ships in violation of international law. In each case Japan lodged a strong protest with the American Government demanded restitution, but as is well known the enemy failed to give a single sincere reply. For the attainment of his outrageous ambition, the enemy is willing to choose any means.

It is fundamentally a mistake to regard such an enemy as a civilized country. The Japanese Government accepted the enemy request at its face value and acted accordingly, but it now transpires that it was like treating a pirate as a sage. The United States has exposed in the present Awa Maru affair her true deceptive character and brutality. The Japanese Government and people should grasp this true character of the enemy and make up their mind to treat him accordingly.

THE TRAGEDY OF 'LIBERATED' EUROPE

Millions of People in Europe Starving; Political and Economic Chaos Overtakes Greece and Belgium

By SUSUMU MISAWA
Overseas Department of Japan Broadcasting Corporation

In war-torn Europe millions of suffering inhabitants were exposed in the past months to a fuel-less winter. They are hovering on the verge of starvation. This is the present state in Italy, France, Belgium, Greece and Yugoslavia who were supposed to have been "liberated" by the Anglo-American invaders.

The Anglo-Americans make a habit of using the word "freedom" when they mean something else. They appear to be greatly charmed with the dispensation of this hollow word which they think will bring huge benefits to the European sufferers. There are "four freedoms" which they always cant, namely, freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear. These freedoms are what they proposed under the Atlantic Charter which Churchill and Roosevelt drafted at the time of the mid-Atlantic meeting on board the ill-fated Prince of Wales in the summer of 1940. Now that these freedoms have been widely propagandized, it behooves us to ascertain what they really connote. This we can do by briefly going over the conditions now existing in these European countries, and in doing so we should refer to the following authentic reports and information which have emanated from various sources:

France

First, let us refer to the reports sent by the American war correspondents from the "liberated" towns in Normandy when the Anglo-American forces landed there in June, 1944. These reports invariably announced that the town people all showed a trace of being well fed; this indicated by their glowing complexion and liveliness. But after a lapse of about eight months, what a change has come over the "liberated" areas of France after the occupation by the Anglo-Americans!

What followed in France after the "liberation" was political strife, chaos and anarchy. A picture of pandemonium was presented by the different political factions, the Leftists, Rightists, Communists, American and British sympathizers struggling for power; it was virtual anarchism. The part General De Gaulle played was nothing but as the leader of an Anglo-American puppet show. Though having returned to France as a triumphant general, all he did was to carry orders out at the command of the Anglo-Americans. He was like a pretty goldfish whose antics were only to please the eyes of the "Big Three"—Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt. The result was an anarchic state of affairs which was responsible for putting the French on the verge of starvation. Adding to their misery was the fact that the Anglo-American forces have already destroyed nearly all means of communication, resulting in the isolation of different sections of France, thus aggravating the food situation. Many are the residences and factories that have been reduced to ruins. According to the statement of the De Gaullist authorities the homeless population runs up to 20,000,000. Thus many have no clothing, fuel or homes. Ironical as it may seem, this is the answer of the Anglo-American to the demand of the French—"A nous la liberte!" or "give us liberty!"

Italy

Italy today is one of the most tragic nations that the current war has produced. It betokens the fate of traitorous Badoglio who was duped by the Anglo-Americans with their sugary word "liboration." The misery of the Italians is so acute that they have lost interest in looking up at the famed Italian blue sky, because they are too much taken up with the preoccupation of living. Italy has been so ruined that her cities, towns and villages are retaining but a little semblance of former days. This is the result of the indiscriminate bombardment and blind raiding that the Anglo-American forces resorted to. The devastated scene almost compares with the old ruins of Pompeii, thus presenting a wretched sight never before observed in man's history. Though such cities as Rome, Venice and others, are comparatively undamaged, in Rome there are some 2,000,000 people who are only able to obtain less than half of their minimum of their daily living necessities. While not a single Italian soldier is stationed in Rome, the city is under the harsh control of the invaders. The majority of the city people are jobless, and even those who are forced to work by the invaders are earning but an average of 50 lire a day. On the other hand, their living expenses show how hard their living conditions are. For instance, it costs 120 lire to get a meal in a cheap restaurant, 130 lire for a loaf of black bread weighing 200 grams, 40 lire for an egg, and 30 lira for a cigarette. Of course, these prices are fixed under the black market system which is, however, the only way to get things they need. From this it can be seen that a day's earnings are about enough to buy only a single cigarette and so in order to get a single regular meal one has to work a whole week at a stretch. It is said that even getting a drink of water in Rome is not an easy matter.

To Increase Mortality

Undoubtedly, such a condition will tend to increase mortality. The rate of infant mortality has also been on the rise. Whereas in Rome this infant mortality rate of babies under one year was only 8 per cent toward the end of 1941 which was just a year after Italy had joined the war, it went up to 28 per cent in July, 1943, the time Badoglio assumed power, and after about a year and a half when the Anglo-Americans occupied the city, it jumped up to 50 per cent. The main cause of this appears to lie in the malnutrition of expectant mothers.

A Swiss correspondent from Rome reported on this situation, as follows: where formerly a loaf of bread had cost only 4 lire, now the people have to pay 400 lire for half of it, and what they get is usually hard and mouldy. Yet even to get such bread the Italian women are forced to resort to harlotry. It is said that a secret Italian society has decreed as a punishment the cutting of the hair of women who sell their virtue to the Anglo-American soldiers. Yet the circumstances are such that unless the poor women do that, there is no other way for them to make a living.

The conditions were quite different when the Germans defended the road leading to Rome as they could continue to supply the city with food, and in doing that with their army trucks they were forced to make many sacrifices in the military sense. But what are the invaders doing now? They are expropriating about a third of the wheat crop raised in Southern Italy, which is estimated at 3,500,000 tons a year. The report further says that the balance of about 2,300,000 tons of wheat is all that is available for the feeding of a population of 23,000,000. This is the present picture of the "liberation" which the Anglo-Americans never fail to harp on.

With such a picture as this forming the background, it is no wonder that the Italian political situation is chaotic, to say the least. And taking advantage of this is Britain who wants to make Italy the starting point in the formation of her "Mediterranean Bloc," while America is scheming to include Italy in her "Atlantic System," and the Soviet Union is figuring on the expansion of her "political bridgehead" in Italy. On the other hand, different political factions in Italy are keeping up endless strife, making the situation worse.

Belgium

The Belgian situation is also serious. The cause of her trouble seems to have come from a political struggle between the Pierlot regime, a British puppet, and the "patriotic" groups represented by the Liberal, Catholic and Nationalist parties, which the Anglo-American military authorities seek to disarm. Taking advantage of this situation are several Communist groups whose internal activities are making Belgium's social struggle still worse, tending to bring it up to an open clash. And to further the bad situation, labor strikes were started in Brussels on November 27, which affected the city's tram lines, railways, mail and telephone communications. This came about as the result of a wholesale walkout ordered by the Union Headquarters. It is reported further that the number of strikers in important industries reached 40,000 at the end of last year. Strikes are said to be rapidly spreading over the whole country.

Black marketing has become the rule in Belgium instead of an exception. It has been brought about by the rise of commodity prices and the rampancy of profiteering and inflation. In addition, the general food situation has been made more acute due to the fact that Belgian farmers are refusing to market their crops with the government-fixed prices. It is reported that in exasperation Premier Hubert Pierlot confessed on November 30 that "There is no fatty substance remaining in the country except what may last the next two weeks, while meat will last only about one more month. As to what is to be done hereafter, we can not say anything definite." Making use of this situation are the Communists who persist in spreading out their propaganda, as in other "liberated" countries in Europe.

As in Belgium, the situation in Greece is worsening. The trouble was started when Britain tried to meddle in Greek internal affairs. To push her interference she made ex-Premier George Papandreou her puppet, and against this the ELAS stood in opposition—the ELAS being a military organization of the EAM, a "patriotic" political body which advocated the liberation of the Greek people. As Britain tried to disband the ELAS with armed intervention, the result was an internal revolt. Thus instead of "liberating" Greece, Britain dispatched her tanks and planes there.

As a result of this revolt, there ensued a disastrous inflation and dangerous food question, which are the causes of the death of numbers of Greek people from starvation. On this point a Times special correspondent reported from Paris on December 5 thus: "In the streets of Athens there are some 3,000 people faced with starvation everyday. Their dead bodies litter the graveyards because in despair, they prefered dying in graveyards."

More can be told about other "liberated" countries in Europe, but space is limited. However as time goes on the real picture will gradually be revealed through the intensification of the war and the development of the political situation which is pregnant with crises.

In short, these suffering European nations are destined to become victims of the wolf-like tactics of the Anglo-Americans who are hungry for the domination of the world, and for the attainment of which they will employ fair means and foul. Such an action was envisaged in the American attitude during the Dumbarton Oaks talks and at the recent International Aviation Conference, and in Walter Lippman's "The United States War Aims." Through a sort of "internationalism" that they advocate, they really want to control the postwar world by means of their accursed money and material power.

Meanwhile, what Britain sees is the inevitability of the doom of her "World Empire," and therefore she is striving to preserve her position as a great power in Europe. She is trying to form a "Western European Bloc" by pulling in France, Belgium, Holland, Denmark and Norway as pupet members. At the same time she is busying herself to realize the "Mediterranean Bloc" and the "Western Asia Bloc," with which she expects to cope with America's powerful onrush and to stop the Soviet expansion. The Soviet Union is pushing her expansion through her own realistic diplomacy, the importance of which neither Britain nor America can afford to overlook.

Thus, after all, these "liberated" European nations are but pawns in the game of power politics; they are hovering between life and death because of the manipulations of these great powers.

INAUGURATION DATE SET OF NATIONAL WAR ORGAN

All-Japan Special Attack Corps To Be Launched by Leaders on April 25

The Zen-Nippon Kokumin Tokkotai (All-Japan National Special Attack Corps), an organ voluntarily formed by leaders in all spheres of life, will be formally inaugurated at ceremonies to be held throughout the country on April 25.

Unable to wait for the establishment of the official volunteer home guards system, town mayors, village headmen, hospital superintendents, factory managers, teachers, and other such people throughout the country have been zealously pushing forward the plans for the formation of the new organ through which they plan to organize a national guard system embracing even the most remote fishing village or mountain hamlet.

The election of about 100 men to represent the five prefectures in Shikoku and the West Kyushu area, has been completed. In the Hokushin, Kinki and Osaka areas, various forms of national shock corps have been formed already. In Shimane Prefecture, plans have been completed for the mobilization of 10,000 people under the leadership of the Imperial Rule Assistance Association Manhood Corps. Over 1,500 people have been organized in Tottori Prefecture, and the people have also been organized in Saga Prefecture in a national war power bolstering movement.

About 500 men will head the new organ throughout the country, with about 10 men at the head of the organization in each prefecture. The headquarters will be established at 170 2-chome, Harajuku, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. The opening ceremony for the headquarters will be held at the Nippon Kaku Restaurant in Nakano from 1 p.m., April 25, the day of the opening of the San Francisco Talks.

News and Views

Bushido and Democracy

Among all the eulogies on the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the one which must have struck deep into the hearts of the Americans came from their arch enemy Japan. Prime Minister Admiral Baron Kantaro Suzuki, in his interview with Domei, frankly admitted that, the late President's leadership was responsible for America's advantageous position today, and for that reason he could sympathize with the American people on the loss of their leader at this critical juncture of the world situation.

No derogatory remarks were found in the Japanese newspapers in reporting President Roosevelt's death at Warm Springs.

This reaction of Japan to President Roosevelt's death should serve to make the Americans understand the difference between Bushido, the way of the Samurai, and the so-called "Democracy" of the Anglo-Americans. If their memory is not exceptionally short, the Americans should be able to compare the remarks carried by the American papers on the death of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, and these that have now appeared in the Tokyo papers in connection with the passing of President Roosevelt. The contrast is illuminating, indeed, showing the difference between Japan's Bushido and America's Democracy, but perhaps it is something too deep for the Americans to understand.

It is well known in Japan that it was President Roosevelt who first proposed the formula of "Unconditional Surrender" for Japan at the Casablanca Conference. No official statement since then has been made as to how the American war leaders propose to deal with Japan, but indications are by no means lacking. The influential New York Herald Tribune, for instance, in its editorial on April 11, stated that "it is difficult to suppose that the Allies will be satisfied with anything less than physical occupation of Japan." Paul McNutt, Chairman of the Manpower Commission, declared in his speech on April 4 that "the Japanese must be exterminated."

Other utterances by high American authorities might be cited to show how the Americans plan to deal with Japan, but there is no necessity to do so. The blind bombing of Tokyo and the other big cities of Japan by the American air force tells the story most convincingly. Here lies another difference between American and Japanese mentalities. The Americans, with their materialistic civilization, are presumably carrying on this useless and wasteful bombing of civilians on the entirely false assumption that in this terroristic way they may squeeze "Unconditional Surrender" from the Japanese. But the reaction on the part of the Japanese people is absolutely contrary. Ninety-nine out of a hundred bombed-out Japanese invaritably states that they are now relieved from any anxiety for their property and they are now free and more than ever determined to carry on the war to the bitter end.

This may be a bit too deep for the Americans to understand. The answer is that the bombed-out Japanese, relieved of their property, merely return to the simple life of their forefathers, a life which had been dissipated by the morbid influence of western civilization for nearly a century since Commodore Perry opened Japan's door to the west.

The News magazine "Time" of New York, in its April 2 issue, expressed astonishment that 6,000 Nisei (American-born Japanese) were "busy renouncing their citizenship and swearing allegiance to the Emperor." The magazine continued "the majority of them dearly want to go back to Japan—even though they can see from newspapers how their future homeland is being developed. After the war is over they will be sent back to what is left of the land few of them have ever seen." This, too, is another case of American failure to understand the Japanese mentality—a most significant case considering the position "Time" occupies in the American journalistic world.

Finally, West is West and East is East. And unless the Americans would be modest and human enough to try to understand the philosophies of other people, there seems little hope for peace on the Pacific.

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UNRRA CONFRONTS DIFFICULTIES

Relief Not Being Given as Promised

Special to the Nippon Times

LISBON, April 12.—Due to a number of unfavorable factors, particularly the continued resistance of the German armed forces, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration is not yet able to carry out fully the task for which it was formed, namely, that of providing relief for the critical deficiencies in food, clothing, fuel, and medicine, in various European countries, it is reported in a dispatch from Washington.

The dispatch adds that, while the UNRRA personnel has already begun to function in Yugoslavia and in Albania, and while Greece, Poland, and Czechoslovakia have formally requested assistance from the UNRRA, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxemburg, and Norway, have not asked for relief supplies or personnel, the last-mentioned countries merely requesting that contact be maintained with their respective governments on matters relating to health, welfare, displaced persons, and agricultural and industrial rehabilitation.

Other highlights of the report, as revealed by the foregoing dispatch, follow:

One UNRRA mission has been sent to France. A preliminary UNRRA mission has also been sent to Luxemburg. Another UNRRA mission is expected to leave soon for Belgium.

UNRRA officials have been assigned to the Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces to provide health services and general welfare work for the millions of displaced persons in all these countries excepting Norway.

Activities in enemy and ex-enemy countries are somewhat limited. Arrangements were made last September to give some help to the people of Italy. The only aid planned for enemy nationals is for those persons who have broken away from their countries because of race, religion, or activities in support of the United Nations. After victory is achieved, it is up to the UNRRA to help the governments of the liberated countries to free themselves from hunger and disease.

To effectively carry out its task, the UNRRA must provide supplies to meet the critical deficiences in food, clothing, and medicine, of the distressed countries. As soon as Allied equipment is available in sufficient quantities to assure victory, the UNRRA will be able to undertake large-scale operations which are necessary to relieve the pressing needs of the liberated peoples.

To fill the important requirements in the liberated countries will take about $7,500,000,000. Many of the countries concerned do not possess sufficient funds in exchange to pay for these imports. These countries would not be able to obtain the food, clothing, and medical assistance they need, except for the assistance of the UNRRA. The agency will furnish supplies to the value of about $2,000,000,000.

The member nations supporting the UNRRA have already appropriated $1,824,000,000. The United States has made an initial appropriation of $450,000,000 as part of its share in underwriting UNRRA expenses.

Roosevelt's report warned that in the event it takes some time to clean up pockets of German resistance after the main German military resistance has been broken up, the effectiveness of the UNRRA may be affected.

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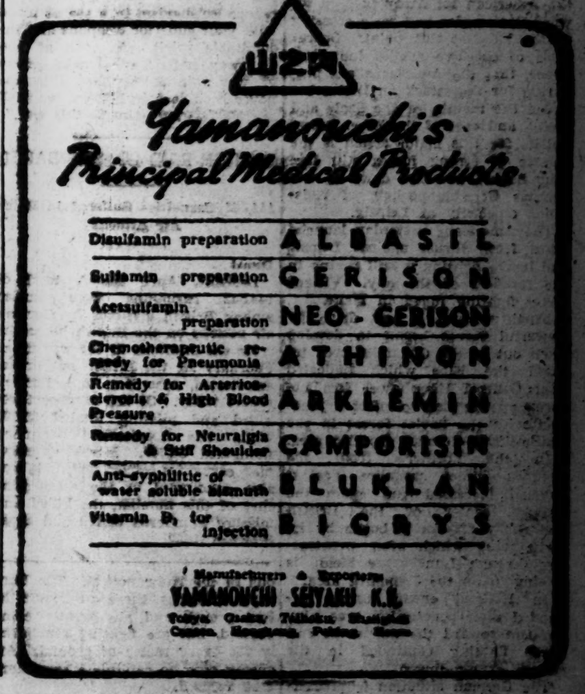

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